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VOL.1 NO.329-210

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday April 16th, 2024

MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE ANNOUNCING 2024 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN TO COMBAT RODENT ISSUES



Continued to page 19

MAYOR BALLANTYNE ANNOUNCES "NEW SMALL BUSINESS VITALITY" GRANT

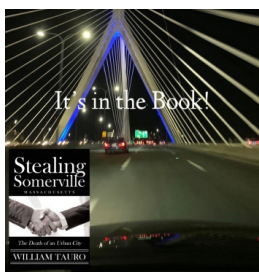
TRAFFIC STOPS FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



Continued to page 11



Continued to page 17

MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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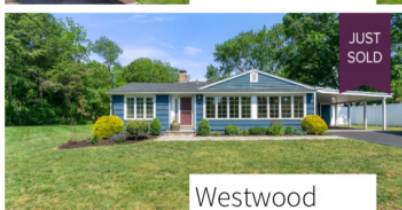
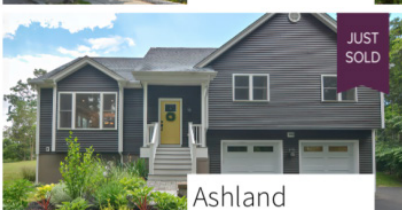
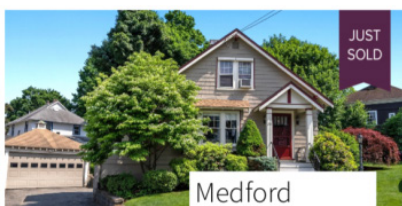
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MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

**BERKSHIRE
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HomeServices | Real Estate



We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send us an email or give us call!

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®
(617) 610-5382 Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com

Patricia Ng Broker Associate
REALTOR®-(617) 818-5736 Patricia.Ng@commonmoves.com

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Winner of the 2019 President Circle Award
Winner of the 2020 Chairman's Circle Gold award, representing the top 2% in Berkshire Hathaway Home Services across the nation





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Please complete all the information requested below:

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 Address (Street/City/Zip): _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

Please send both forms and payment to:

Medford High School
 Attn: Rob Farrell
 489 Winthrop Street
 Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 MHS Varsity Softball is a non-profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
 Tax ID 04-6001400

Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.



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MAYOR BALLANTYNE INVITES LOCAL TEENS TO APPLY FOR MAYOR'S 2024 SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM



SOMERVILLE – Applications are now open for the City of Somerville Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne encourages all interested

local teens to apply. Interested teens can apply online now at somervillema.gov/summerjobs.

Applications are due by Sunday, April 28 . All applicants will be interviewed the week of May 13.

About the Mayor’s Summer Job Program

Every summer, the City of Somerville hires local teens to work with a variety of City departments, such as the Recreation Department, the Office of Sustainability, Parks and Open Space, the public libraries and more. Students are also placed with local businesses that partner with the program. The program encourages career exploration and

skill development and fosters deeper connections with the Somerville community.

Applicants must be at least 14 years old by May 5, 2024, and either be enrolled in a Somerville school, or be a Somerville resident. The time commitment is approximately 20 hours per week for six weeks starting in July,

though actual schedules will vary by job site placement. The program will require onboarding and orientation. All positions are paid. The hourly rate is \$17.72.

If you have any additional questions, please contact summerjobs@somervillema.gov.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING NORMAN C. CAPPELLO



Obituary Cappello, Norman C. – Of Moody, Maine formerly of Somerville and Medford passed away on Monday, April 8, 2024. He was 89.

Born in Cambridge, he was the son of the late Verdas (Altman) Cappello. Norman was a family man who loved nothing more than spending time with his family. Seeing their love and laughter with one another brought joy and happiness to his life. Normans dedication

to providing for his family was one of his most proudful moments in his life. He loved his family immensely. He was a skilled carpenter for many years.

Beloved father of Karen Medeiros and her husband Paul of Tewksbury, Charlie Cappello and Danielle Dalton of Newburyport, Kim Gouveia and her husband Richard of Tewksbury, Doug Cappello and Christine Coupe Juergens of Pelham, NH, Ricky Cappello and his wife Denise of Norton and the late Virginia Cappello. Cherished grandfather of Tiffany Cappello, Ashley, Arianna and Anthony Medeiros, Jackson and Gavin Cappello, Olivia and Sophia Gouveia, Lisa Cappello, Kristina Cappello, Gabrielle Hunt, David, Mitchell and Dana

Cappello. Great-grandfather of Virginia Cappello and Chase Hunt. Loving and longtime companion of Helen Cousins. Dear brother of Sally Howley of Virginia Beach, VA and the late Jimmy Cappello and Louise Brodeur. Former husband and dear friend of the late Anna M. Cappello. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on FRIDAY, April 12th at 9:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Catherine Church, 179 Summer St., Somerville at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling hours will be held on THURSDAY, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Late U.S Army Vet, Korean War.



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING RUTH A. SHEPPARD

Obituary SHEPPARD, Ruth A. (Melley) Of Billerica formerly of Somerville April 11, 2024. Complete notice to follow.

Funeral procession from the George L. Doherty

Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Wednesday morning at 9:30, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Clement Church, Somerville/Medford at 10:00.

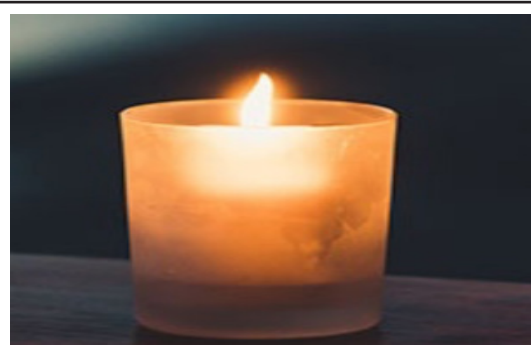
Relatives and friends

invited. Interment, Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING SUE ATSUKO KAWASHIMA

Obituary Kawashima, Sue Atsuko (Nagahama) – Of Cambridge, passed away on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. She was 95 years old. Complete obit to be posted.





SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE:TWO LEGGED RATS AT CITY HALL DEFENDING FOUR LEGGED RATS ON CITY STREETS

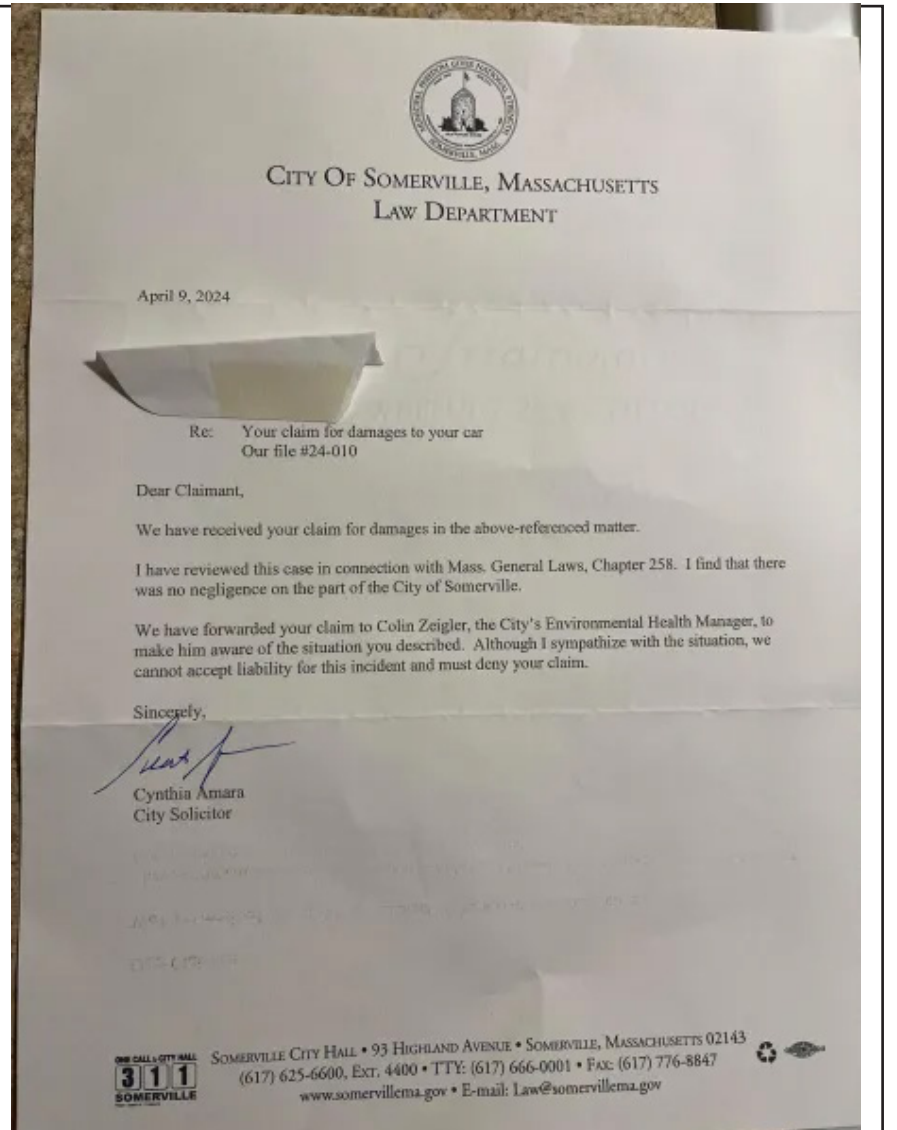
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speak-up Line,

Hi Billy. I thought you might want to post this anonymously. In January rats made a home in my car engine and caused \$7,000 in damage to engine and wiring.

My ex- husband's insurance luckily covered most of the damage but I had to pay \$700 out of pocket. I did a Notice of Claim and dropped it off to the Mayor's office.

This is the letter I

received today. Please feel free to post it.



NEW SOMERVILLE FIREFIGHTERS AND PROMOTION

Six new Firefighters were appointed to the Somerville Fire Department at the April 11th City Council Meeting.

The new Firefighters are: Derek Doane, Jack Haigis, John Tivinis, Nicholas Cantone, William Deeks and Sergio Rodriguez. In addition, District Chief Kenneth Silva was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief.

l-r: Assistant Chief Sean

Tierney, John Tivinis, Sergio Rodriguez, Nicholas Cantone, Derek Doane, William Deeks, Jack Haigis and Chief Charles Breen.

Newly promoted Deputy Chief Kenneth Silva has his badge pinned on by his son, John.

(Photos courtesy of Somerville FD)



CURBSIDE YARD WASTE PICKUP RESUMES WEEK OF APRIL 15 IN SOMERVILLE

Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Pickup on one-day delay all week due to Patriot's Day Holiday on Monday

SOMERVILLE-Somerville's yard waste pickup begins for the season the week of April

15th. That week's collection is on a one-day delay due to the Patriots' Day Holiday on Monday, April 15, so put all trash, recycling, and yard waste out one day later than you normally would. A full yard waste calendar is available at

somervillema.gov/yardwaste and is also in the Environmental Service Guide mailed to all households this month.

Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day. Yard waste must

either be in a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Stickers are available free of charge at the DPW Building, 1 Franey Road, or the entrance desk at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. To request a sticker be mailed to you, please call

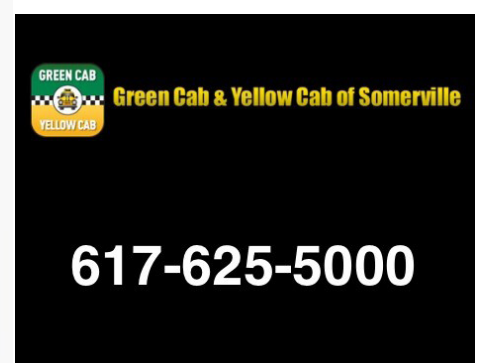
311 or email 311updates@somervillema.gov.

For more information on yard waste pickup, visit somervillema.gov/yardwaste or call 311 (617-666-3311).

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\$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 4529)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 39-0. approved a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state.

The \$375 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$175 million for several transportation-related grant programs. The House has already approved the bill and only final House and Senate passage are necessary before the measure goes to Gov. Healey for her signature.

The programs funded by the

\$175 million include the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program; and grants for municipalities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them.

“The annual authorization of the Chapter 90 program provides cities and towns with the state funding they need to most effectively address their transportation infrastructure needs,” said Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Senate Chair of the Committee on Transportation. “This \$375 million total investment in both Chapter 90 and additional grant opportunities funds tangible improvements across our entire transporta-

tion network—including roads, bridges, access to mass transit and sidewalks.”

“Getting around our communities is a fundamental part of everyone’s day,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “Whether the commute takes you on the sidewalk, through a bike lane, across a small bridge, onto your Regional Transit Authority or to the T, your journey should be quick and safe. By passing today’s legislation, we are empowering our cities and towns with the funding to make improvements to the infrastructure our residents travel on, regardless of where they go and how.”

“Our transportation infrastruc-

ture is so vitally important to the state’s economy and this Chapter 90 funding addresses many outstanding issues in keeping the commonwealth’s and public transportation system in peak operating condition,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “I’m pleased that over \$375 million has been allocated to municipal roadways, local streetscape improvements and enhancements to our mass transit system,”

We’re grateful to see the House and Senate swiftly pass the Chapter 90 bond bill with key investments in municipal roads and bridges,” said Adam Chapdelaine, CEO of the Mass

Municipal Association. “This quick action was essential with the construction season already underway. This year, we’ll again be advocating for the Legislature to supplement these programs through dedicated funding via the new state surtax. Last year, supplemental Chapter 90 aid via the surtax provided an additional \$100 million for the 30,000 miles of municipal roads, which went to great use in communities all across the commonwealth.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$375 million package.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE PROPOSES \$57.9 BILLION FISCAL 2025 STATE BUDGET

By Bob Katzen

The House fired the second shot in the long battle over the state budget for fiscal year 2025 that begins on July 1. Gov. Maura Healey fired the opening

volley in January when she filed her version of the spending package. The House Ways and Means Committee last week unveiled its own \$57.9 billion version.

It increases spending by \$1.9 billion, or 3.3 percent, over the current fiscal year 2024 budget. Debate on the House version is scheduled to begin soon.

After the full House approves a version of the package, the Senate will follow suit with its own draft, and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to

the House and Senate for consideration and sent to the governor.

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MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

Congratulations to The Medford VFW on its new Installation of Commander Steve McLaughlin as he takes charge.

Best of luck and we can’t wait to see all the good things that you will bring to the VFW under your guidance and leadership!

For new membership call (781)395-2519



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“It’s as close as you can get for a real authentic Italian dining experience that will keep you coming back for more” “Definitely a two thumbs up rating and absolutely worth checking

them out!” Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

State of A Tavola:

A Tavola’s outdoor patio dining is open for business! Take-out and delivery is also available! (with-in a small radius of A Tavola).

A special menu and special hours will be posted on our website as well as our social media channels. Please stay tuned

for any and all details.

As always our gift cards will be available through our website, over the phone and in person. Starting Tuesday, for every gift card purchase over \$100, we will add an additional \$20 gift card as a way to thank you for your support.

If there is anything in particular you would like to see from us or if you need help preparing food at home for your families please reach out and we will do

our best to help. Whether it be recipe ideas with random things you might have purchased or if you run out of something that you need that we can help with please don’t hesitate to ask.

A Tavola Restaurant Winchester outdoor patio dining is open for business & takeout orders: (781)729-1040 34 Church St Winchester

Thank you for your continued support.



SUSTAINAVILLE WEEK 2024: CELEBRATE CLIMATE ACTION IN SOMERVILLE, APRIL 20-27

<p>Week of Events Features Release of Updated Community Climate Action Plan, Bike Clinic, Miyawaki Forest Tour, and More</p> <p>All Events Are Free and Family Friendly</p> <p>SOMERVILLE – Join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment for a series of free and family friendly events and interactive activities to celebrate SustainaVille Week, April 20-27, an annual celebration of climate action in Somerville during the week of Earth Day.</p> <p>See the full schedule of events online here: http://www.somervillema.gov/sustainavilleweek.</p> <p>“Whether it’s planting a pollinator garden, advocating to decarbonize new construction in our area,</p>	<p>recycling, or investing in sustainability initiatives, every day the City and Somerville community work together to help protect our planet,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “This year’s SustainaVille Week is especially exciting as community members can review the City’s updated Climate Forward plan that will help us maintain a strong, healthy community in the face of climate change while simultaneously reducing climate pollution and our dependence on fossil fuels. I look forward to seeing everyone to celebrate what we have achieved and inspire the hard work ahead of us as we continue fighting climate change.”</p> <p>The 2024 SustainaVille Week lineup features a community celebration for the updated community climate action plan, the Climate Forward plan. Get inspired by interactive art that explores our shared climate resilient vision. The event is free, open to all, and family</p>	<p>friendly. The event will include interactive art, light refreshments, and live music.</p> <p>Check out highlights of the schedule below:</p> <p>Pollinators, Plants, and Possibilities, Saturday, April 20</p> <p>10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Groundwork Somerville’s South Street Farm (138 South Street)</p> <p>2 p.m.-4 p.m.: Somerville Community Growing Center (22 Vinal Ave)</p> <p>Join us for a fun day of family friendly activities, including seed plantings, composting demos, arts & crafts, and live music. Language support will be available for Spanish and Portuguese, and other languages upon request.</p> <p>Youth Led Bike Clinic, Monday, April 22, 6-8 p.m., The Dojo @ Somernova (15 Properzi Way)</p>	<p>Bring your bike and get it tuned up by the Groundwork Somerville Bike Team!</p> <p>Pollinator Action Table at West Branch, Tuesday, April 23, 4-6 p.m., West Branch Library (40 College Ave.)</p> <p>Learn about the Pollinator Action Plan and ways to explore the biodiversity in your neighborhood at this information table.</p> <p>Imaging Climate Forward 2050, Wednesday, April 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Greentown Labs (444 Somerville Ave.)</p> <p>Step into Somerville in 2050 where we have succeeded in creating a climate forward community! Get inspired by interactive art that explores our shared climate resilient vision.</p> <p>Join the City of Somerville for the release of its updated community climate action plan – the Climate Forward plan. The event is open to</p>	<p>all and is family friendly. The event will include interactive art, light refreshments, and live music.</p> <p>Registration recommended but not required: greentownlabs.com/event/imagining-climate-forward-2050/</p> <p>Miyawaki Forest Tour, Thursday, April 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Behind Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)</p> <p>Come explore the Miyawaki forest seedlings and learn about the city’s urban tree canopy.</p> <p>Civic Day, Saturday, April 27, 12-4 p.m., City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)</p> <p>Learn about local government, programs, services, and ways to get involved!</p>
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Legal Ad Notice

<p>City of Somerville Income Restricted Homeownership Opportunity 71 Bow Street 65-71 Bow Street Somerville, MA 02143 www.71BowStreetLottery.com</p> <p>Asset Limit: \$75,000 (excluding restricted assets) Applications are available during the application period, from Monday, April 1st, 2024 — Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 To complete an online application, visit: www.71BowStreetLottery.com To have a hard copy of the application mailed to you, please email 71Bow@MaloneyProperties.com</p>	<p>MaloneyProperties.com or call (617) 639-3064 Ext 771 US Relay 711 Hard applications will be available at the entrance of the City Hall Annex located at 50 Evergreen Ave, Somerville City Hall located at 93 Highland Ave., & all Somerville Public Library branches. Four (4) Inclusionary Homeownership Units Unit # Unit Size Estimated Square Footage AMI Parking Space Purchase Price Minimum</p>	<p>Downpayment (3%) Estimated Monthly Condo Fee Minimum Household Size 203 1-Bedroom + Study 940 81%-110% No \$278,649 306 2-Bedroom 1,014 80% Yes \$229,410 401 2-Bedroom 1,248 80% Yes \$229,410 405 2-Bedroom 998 81%- 110% No \$335,834 \$10,075 \$197 2</p>	<p>Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or delivered (not postmarked) no later than Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 by 5pm Mailed to: Maloney Properties, Inc. Attn: 71 Bow Street Lottery 27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481 Information Sessions: Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 at 12pm Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 at 6pm Join Zoom Meeting: https://maloneyproperties.zoom.us/j/82209393467?pwd=R29sboO0hfK5XGceJPmgvdSIYPj2pC.1 Meeting ID: 822 0939 3467</p>	<p>Passcode: 001739 One tap mobile +13052241968,,82209393467#,,, *001739# US +13092053325,,82209393467#,,, *001739# US Selection by Lottery. Asset, Use & Resale Restrictions Apply For more information, free language assistance, or to make a request for reasonable accommodations, please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 771 US Relay 711 or email 71Bow@MaloneyProperties.com</p>
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City of Somerville Income Restricted Homeownership Opportunity
71 Bow Street
65-71 Bow Street
Somerville, MA 02143
www.71BowStreetLottery.com

Four (4) Inclusionary Homeownership Units								
Unit #	Unit Size	Estimated Square Footage	AMI	Parking Space	Purchase Price	Minimum Downpayment (3%)	Estimated Monthly Condo Fee	Minimum Household Size
203	1-Bedroom + Study	940	81%-110%	No	\$278,649	\$8,359	\$163	1
306	2-Bedroom	1,014	80%	Yes	\$229,410	\$6,882	\$134	2
401	2-Bedroom	1,248	80%	Yes	\$229,410	\$6,882	\$134	2
405	2-Bedroom	998	81%- 110%	No	\$335,834	\$10,075	\$197	2

Maximum Income Limits
(set by the HUD + based on Household Size + AMI)

Household Size	80% AMI	81%-110% AMI
1	\$82,950	\$82,951 - \$114,268
2	\$94,800	\$94,801 - \$130,592
3	\$106,650	\$106,651 - \$146,916
4	\$118,450	\$118,451 - \$163,240
5	\$127,950	\$127,951 - \$176,299
6	\$137,450	\$137,451 - \$189,358

*2023 Area Median Incomes for the Boston, Cambridge, Quincy, MA-NH MSA

Asset Limit: \$75,000 (excluding restricted assets)

Applications are available during the application period, from **Monday, April 1st, 2024 — Wednesday, May 15th, 2024**

To complete an online application, visit: www.71BowStreetLottery.com

To have a hard copy of the application mailed to you, please email 71Bow@MaloneyProperties.com or call (617) 639-3064 Ext 771 | US Relay 711

Hard applications will be available at the entrance of the City Hall Annex located at 50 Evergreen Ave, Somerville City Hall located at 93 Highland Ave., & all Somerville Public Library branches.

Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or delivered (not postmarked) no later than Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 by 5pm

Mailed to:
Maloney Properties, Inc.
Attn: 71 Bow Street Lottery
27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481

Information Sessions:
Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 at 12pm
Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 at 6pm

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://maloneyproperties.zoom.us/j/82209393467?pwd=R29sboO0hfK5XGceJPmgvdSIYPj2pC.1>
Meeting ID: 822 0939 3467
Passcode: 001739
One tap mobile
+13052241968,,82209393467#,,, *001739# US
+13092053325,,82209393467#,,, *001739# US

• Selection by Lottery. Asset, Use & Resale Restrictions Apply

For more information, free language assistance, or to make a request for reasonable accommodations, please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 771 | US Relay 711 or email 71Bow@MaloneyProperties.com

Equal Housing Opportunity

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 04/16/2024



Instant Shoe Repair (781)658-0240



22 Broadway Somerville MA
Shoe & Handbag Repair



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3 Lily Street, Malden
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37 Holyoke Road, Somerville
Sold for \$1,400,000. Sold in 10 days!



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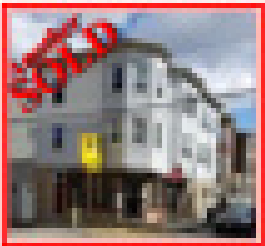


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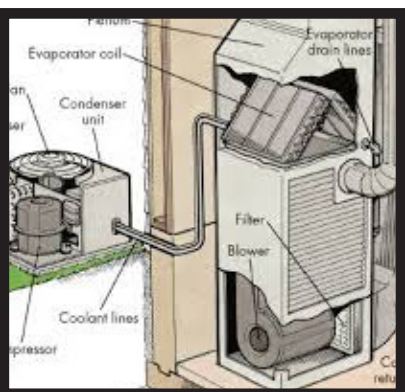
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

Here's your weekly News Talk Shout Out dosage continued from page 2



Heres Your Weekly Dosage of Somerville News Weeklys Newstalk Shoutout/Speakup Loud

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Instant Shoe and Luggage Repair is located on the corner of Broadway and Mt. Vernon Street, just before the I-93 overpass and only a few blocks from Sullivan Station.

Instant specializes in repairing zippers, on luggage and hand bags, as well as shoe repair services such as stretching, resoling, and re-heeling. The store also stocks items ranging from blankets, to perfumes, jeans, belts, jackets and socks



SOMERVILLE STREET SWEEPING RESUMES MONDAY, APRIL 1

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Kat-jana Ballantyne and the Somerville Parking Department are reminding all residents that regular street sweeping schedules officially resume Monday, April 1, and will continue through December 31, 2024.

Somerville’s street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm

drains.

Residents and community members can check street signs to know when parking is unavailable due to sweeping. A recurring pattern was chosen in order to allow residents to plan ahead.

Find Your Street Sweeping Schedule & Avoid Parking Tickets

On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved

from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street.

The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the street sweeping schedule in areas where they park. The best way to do this is to read the signs on the street when you park. You can also sign up for street sweeping

reminders.

Sign Up for Street Sweeping Reminders

You can use the Somerville Waste Wizard below to find out when your street is being swept. Sign up to receive complimentary street sweeping notifications by selecting “Sign Up for Reminders.”

Sign up for reminders here: somervillema.gov/departments/sweeping

Please remember that this is a courtesy service that may experience technical problems; it remains the drivers’ responsibility to follow the posted signs and move their vehicle on time.

For more information regarding street sweeping procedures, visit parksomerville.com or call 311 (617-666-3311).

MUST NOTIFY OWNER OF GAS OR ELECTRIC SHUTOFFS (H 1370)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would require gas and electric companies to contact landlords within 14 days of a tenant’s bill becoming past due.

Supporters said the bill would allow for third party notifications as an extra measure of protection against having their gas or electric service shut off. Utility companies would be required to

contact landlords within 14 days of a tenant’s bill becoming past due. And if a tenant is out of town or overlooks the notice, the landlord will be notified and can give rectify the situation to protect their property from any dam-

age due to a cessation of service.

“The purpose of this bill is to notify homeowners, particularly landlords, about a potential shut-off,” said sponsor Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin). “Cur-

rently, only the customer of record is given notice, which makes a landlord vulnerable to cessation of services which may harm their real property.”

LOWER INTEREST RATE ON PROPERTY TAXES DEFERRED BY SENIORS (H 2919)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill which would lower the current flat 16 percent interest rate on property taxes that are deferred under the Se-

nior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program, which defers payment until the senior sells the property or passes away.

The bill would lower the rate to the prime rate plus

2 percent. The current prime rate is 8.5 percent which would result in a 10.5 percent interest rate.

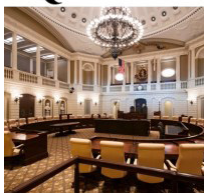
“This legislation establishes more reasonable interest rates on the property

taxes deferred under the senior citizen property tax deferral program, enabling more senior citizens to take advantage of the program and freeing up money for important items such as medication,

housing expenses and health care,” said sponsor Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley).

THIS WEEK’S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

“We are grateful for the many Department of Mental Health (DMH) providers who provide compassionate care for individuals experiencing serious and persistent mental illness each day. The MA Repay program is a way to show our gratitude and commitment to the work that people are doing day after day.”

—Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh on the state awarding \$10 million in student loan repayment to 221 DMH direct care staff and clinicians across the state.

“Supporting our performing arts centers is a strategic investment in the vitality of our communities. These organizations serve as hubs of creativity, offering transformative experiences that entertain, educate and inspire audiences of all ages. By supporting these institutions, we not only preserve our cultural heritage but also foster innovation, economic growth and social cohesion, ensuring a vibrant and enriching future for genera-

tions to come.”

—Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director, of the Mass Cultural Council announcing \$3.6 million being awarded to 58 performing arts centers across the Bay State.

“Massachusetts has the best sports fans in the country. We are dedicated and determined. Especially Red Sox fans like those who continuously added their rallying call to end the curse to this sign. I’m excited to be joining the 2004 championship team, who broke the 86-year-curse for their fans, as we celebrate that history-making win and reunite them with this symbol of their fans who never gave up.”

—Gov. Maura Healey, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Red Sox winning the 2004 World Series, showing off the famous “Reverse the Curse” road sign. It was originally a road sign that hung off the Longfellow Bridge on Storrow Drive warning drivers of a curve in the road ahead, but was famously repeatedly spray-painted by Red Sox fans to say “Reverse the Curse,” in reference to the alleged curse that plagued the team after the sale of Babe Ruth and prevented them from winning the World Series from 1918 until 2003.

“The Healey administration needs to refocus their priority to save money for

the taxpayers of Massachusetts. Spending \$300 a night for the emergency shelter program is simply unsustainable for the state of Massachusetts and its taxpayers. The state is struggling to be economically competitive while its spending is soaring. The responsibility falls on our governor to make the hard decisions that result in our taxpayers becoming the number one priority.”

—Paul. Craney, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, in response to The Boston Herald story that said the state is paying up to \$300 dollars a night for some of the housing under the emergency shelter program.



MAYOR BALLANTYNE ANNOUNCES “NEW SMALL BUSINESS VITALITY” GRANT PROGRAM

Continued from front page



ARPA funded grants to support small businesses during their startup year when costs and challenges are high

SOMERVILLE—Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Economic Development Division announce the New Small Business Vitality grant program. Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the program is designed to foster the vitality and growth of small businesses, providing essential

support to budding entrepreneurs. The New Small Business Vitality Grant offers up to 12 months of rental support for new physical storefronts up to a maximum of \$50,000.

“It’s well known that the startup costs and initial challenges of opening a new small business are a precarious time for budding business owners, and we also know that small businesses are the lifeblood of our squares, main streets, and local economy. So, it’s a win-win to support new businesses that create jobs and offer services to our community while also paying local taxes to fund city needs,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “We’ve pumped more than \$4 Million into our local businesses since 2020 to help them get through the many challenges of the pandemic. This

program now aims to put our newer businesses on strong footing as they come in to fill our vacant storefronts and support the vitality of our squares and main streets.”

Eligibility is limited to newly established commercial storefronts, with a start date no earlier than January 2023. The application will be open from April 15 to May 15, 2024. The application is available in English and Spanish and support and outreach will be conducted in other languages.

The New Small Business Vitality Grant beneficiaries will receive reimbursements for both past and impending rent payments. To qualify, businesses must employ fewer than 20 full-time staff and engage in a lease agreement at the time of application. Grant amounts are tailored to individual needs,

based on fair market rental prices. In return for this financial support, grant recipients are expected to prioritize hiring within the Somerville community, particularly focusing on individuals from low to moderate-income backgrounds when feasible and appropriate. Additionally, businesses are required to strive to maintain operational status for a minimum of one-year post-grant receipt. Please note, this program is exclusive to physical brick and mortar locations and funds are limited; home-based enterprises do not qualify.

“With past grants, Somerville was able to support many small businesses through the Covid pandemic. Our team in Economic Development is excited that we can now extend financial support to the new busi-

nesses that are joining our dynamic business districts. The squares of Somerville are alive with amazing small business experiences – we encourage everyone to come discover what new businesses have to offer and explore what’s new in your longstanding favorites too,” said Rachel Nadkarni, Director of Economic Development.

How to Apply:

Visit bit.ly/vitalitygrant to apply by Wednesday, May 15, 2024. For more information, please email SomervilleSBVGSupport@iparametrics.com or call 857-557-6002.

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Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Lacourt Realty, LLC & 300 Somerville Avenue Realty, LLC are pleased to announce **2 income-restricted rental apartments** available through the City of Somerville Inclusionary Housing Program at:

300 Somerville Ave., Somerville & 124 College Ave., Somerville



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Min. & Max. Income Limits

Household Size	Min. Income*	Tier 1 (50% AMI) Maximum Income Limits
2	\$37,848.00 (300 Somerville Ave.)	\$59,400
3		\$66,800
4	AND	\$74,200
5	\$40,080 (124 College Ave.)	\$80,150
6		\$86,120

Address + Unit Number	Bedrooms	Monthly Rent	Utilities Included	Approx. Area (SF)
300 Somerville Ave. #6	2	\$1,290	N/A	1,509
124 College Ave. #2-5	2	\$1,492	Water; Sewer	650

* Min. income requirements are waived for households with rental subsidies through mobile housing vouchers such as Section 8, MRVP, VASH etc.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: Tues. Jun. 27– Wed. Jul. 26 22

Online at: somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing

Request hard applications and more information at: (617) 625-6600 X 2566 or inclusionary@somervillema.gov

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wed. Jul. 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Faxed to: 617-591-3235; Emailed to: inclusionary@somervillema.gov

Mailed/Dropped off to: City Hall Annex: 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145;

LOTTERY: Tues. Aug., 1, 2023 @ 3PM | Register to view the lottery here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2110441532871509852>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: INCLUSIONARY@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV / 617-625-6600 ext. 2566

Visit: somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 06/27/23, 07/04/23, 07/11/23, 07/18/23

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2259 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

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THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING:
 2024-15 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 12 Westwood Rd, 42 Oliver St.
 2024-16 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the north side of Bow Street, nearest 71 Bow Street, 112 feet west of Bow Street Place to 72 feet west of Bow Street Place.
 2024-17 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time at the two parking spaces on Fairfax St. along the side of 357 Alewife Brook Parkway.

2024-18 Article XIV Section 14-2 is amended with the addition of the following language: Traffic Calming Petition - A petition indicating at least 9 residents, or 33% of the residents on the street (whichever is lower) support the implementation of a traffic calming device.
 2024-19 Article XIV Section 14-3 is amended as follows: replace the current Warrants for Article XIV Installation table with "Proposed Traffic Calming Assessment Table - The City uses several metrics to assess the general characteristics of streets and the potential viability of traffic calming measures. A second group of metrics helps document priority considerations. Each metric is assigned a "Yes" or "No" designation. Metrics are described in more detail below."
 2024-20 Article XIV Section 14-3 is amended as follows: replace the current Priority Ranking System language with "The above recommended metrics for Article XIV installation include a total of four thresholds and four priority considerations. The above analysis is used to direct data collection efforts to evaluate the proposed Traffic Calming Petition. After data collection, the proposed street is added to the traffic calming consideration list where it is evaluated alongside other traffic calming needs based on bi-annual data collection, community feedback, and staff recommendations. Traffic calming is also often implemented in pavement and sidewalk reconstruction projects through the City's Pavement Resurfacing Program. The length of time it takes to process a request and provide a recommendation, is subject to spring and fall data collection and the volume of requests. Streets at the top of the prioritization list will be more likely to receive funding and will be treated first."
 2024-21 Article XIV Section 14-4 is amended as follows: replace the current Neighborhood Traffic Management Process with "(a) A resident alerts the City to a problem area, this can be done through methods such as contacting the City's 311 Services, emailing the Mobility Division, providing feedback as part of a project outreach process, or via a Councilor.
 (b) Neighbors complete a petition (Traffic Calming Request Form, included in Appendix B) including a written description of the location of concern and requires the signatures of at least 9 residents, or 33% of the residents on the impacted street(s) (whichever is lower). Upon submission, the petition will be verified with City records to validate the residency status of the petitioners. The petition must be signed by the inhabitants of households who legally reside on the street. Only one handwritten signature per household will be considered.
 (c) Once the petition is verified, the City will collect data in order to prepare an analysis evaluating the criteria for implementation.
 (d) After data collection, the proposed street is added to the traffic calming consideration list where it is evaluated alongside traffic calming needs based on bi-annual data collection, constituent requests, and staff recommendations.
 (e) The Traffic Commission votes to adopt, reject or modify the recommendations made by the City, if there are impacts to regulations under Traffic Commission's purview (for example, impacts to curb-side parking).

Metrics	Criteria	Criteria Met?
Traffic Calming Metrics		
Prevailing Speeds	85 th percentile speed exceeds 20 mph	Y/N
Street Width	Paved width of street does not exceed 40 feet	Y/N
Minimum Traffic Volume	Average Daily Traffic of at least 800 vehicles per day	Y/N
Public Support	At least 33% of residents, or 9 residents, support petition.	Y/N
Priority Considerations		
Prevailing Speeds	85 th percentile speed exceeds 25 mph	Y/N
Adjacent Land Use	Street serves or is adjacent to a school, public space, senior center, affordable housing or building of worship.	Y/N
Neighborway	Street identified as Neighborway in Somerville's Bicycle Network Plan	Y/N
Upcoming Street Reconstruction	Street is adjacent to an upcoming street reconstruction project	Y/N
Totals	Traffic Calming Metrics Met	<u>2/4</u>
	Priority Considerations Met	<u>2/4</u>

PROMULGATED: MARCH 21, 2024
 ADVERTISED: APRIL 2, 2024
 APRIL 9, 2024
 APRIL 16, 2024
 EFFECTIVE: APRIL 24, 2024

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 04/02/24, 04/09/24, 04/16/24

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MAYOR BALLANTYNE INVITING SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY TO SPRING CIVIC DAY CELEBRATION



Join Family-Friendly Activities and Games to Learn About Local Government & Services on Saturday, April 27
SOMERVILLE – Mayor

Katjana Ballantyne invites community members to attend the city's spring Civic Day celebration on Saturday, April 27, from noon to 4 p.m. at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) and on the City Hall concourse.

Civic Day aims to provide community members of all ages with fun, interactive opportunities to learn about

City government, programs, services, and ways to get involved.

Currently planned activities include lawn games, face painting, trivia, City Hall scavenger hunts, and exploring a Somerville Fire Truck. Stay tuned to the City website and social media channels for updates on programming.

The City Hall concourse will be closed to vehicular traffic. Temporary handicap parking will be available along Highland Avenue near the concourse. In the event of inclement weather, all outdoor activities will be moved inside to Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Multilingual staff from the

SomerViva: Office of Immigrant Affairs will be present to offer language support for residents who may need assistance connecting with city departments. For more information, please contact Victoria MacGregor at vmacgregor@somervillema.gov or visit somervillema.gov/civicday

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING DARLING SAINT JEAN

Obituary Saint Jean, Darling- Of Dorchester, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Born in Port Au Prince, Haiti. She was the daughter of the late Joseph Fritz and Yolande (Cineus)

Saint Jean.

Complete obit to be posted.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on SATURDAY April 20th from 10:00AM to 11:00AM. Followed by

a service in the funeral home at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with interment at Calvary Cemetery, Waltham.



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TRAFFIC STOPS FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM

Continued from front page



By Bob Katzen

The state announced the implementation of the “Blue Envelope Program,” designed to improve interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops.

The voluntary program provides individuals on the autism spectrum with specially designed blue envelopes to carry their driver’s licenses; vehicle registration; and a contact card which informs police officers about their diagnosis and other essential communication guidelines to ensure more effective

and sensitive communication during the interaction.

In addition, information printed on the envelope’s exterior identifies the operator as a person with autism spectrum disorder, provides instructions for a police officer on how to enhance communication with the driver; and how

to reduce anxiety and stress the driver may be experiencing as a result of being stopped or involved in an incident. The envelope also lists guidelines for the driver, including what to expect during a traffic stop, and how to present the Blue Envelope to the officer.

“In honor of Autism Acceptance Month, the Blue Envelope Program reflects our deep commitment to supporting programs that strengthen inclusivity and support law enforcement’s ability to more effectively meet the needs of every community member,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “We’re grateful for the collaboration of our partners who brought this important public

safety program to fruition.”

“This new program provides an essential tool to enhance communication between police officers and drivers with autism while helping officers to recognize possible behaviors and more effectively engage individuals during traffic stops, motor vehicle accidents or mechanical breakdowns,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy.

More information about the Blue Envelope Program, including how to request an envelope online and how to prepare, carry and display them, is available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/blue-envelope->

Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square
Give what you can, Take what you need
Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook and please join the group!
The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming.
Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the

homeless and less fortunate.
A “Somerville Blessing Boxes” Facebook page has been established keep everyone updated on donations and the Blessing Boxes inventory status. Please feel free to join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville.
One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square.
“Give what you can, Take what you need.”
Much thanks and appreciation,
Frank Santangelo

Blessing Backpack Checklist

<p>BASICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat) <input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf <p>FOOD & DRINK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee <input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink <input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky <input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers <input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars <input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards <p>HELP THEM CONNECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen <input type="checkbox"/> Stationary <input type="checkbox"/> Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card 	<p>TOILETRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick <input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer <input type="checkbox"/> Comb <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit <p>SURVIVAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter <input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool <p>TREATS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks <input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs <input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped) <input type="checkbox"/> Mints <input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum <p>SPLURGE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card <input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag
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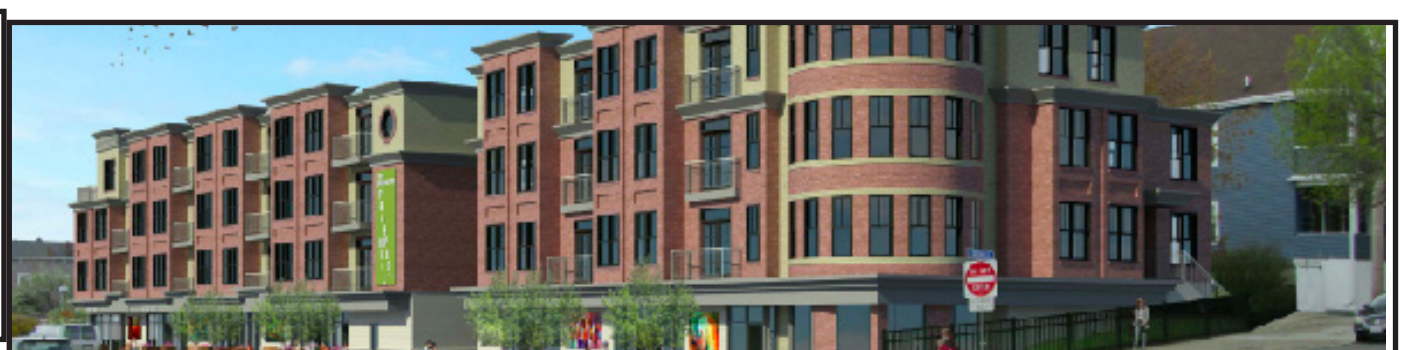
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MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE ANNOUNCING 2024 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN TO COMBAT RODENT ISSUES

Continued from front page



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville’s Inspectional Services Department are proud to announce Somerville’s 2024 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, a comprehensive strategy crafted through collaborative efforts between various city departments and community stakeholders.

Aimed at enhancing rodent management efforts, the updated plan incorporates Integrated Pest Management principles to

Key improvements outlined in the plan include:

Fine Structure Revision
: The plan proposes revisiting fine structures for repeat or significant violators of city ordinances, including adjustments to fee structures and the frequency of ticketing.

Annual Rodent Communications Plan
: Establishing an annual schedule of social media campaigns, mailers, community engagement events, training sessions, and visual media to raise awareness and educate the public about rodent control measures.

Enhanced Public Re

sources
: Improving the accessibility of resources and guides related to rodent management for residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Expansion of Poison-Free Abatement Measures:
Introducing alternative poison-free abatement measures such as SMART Boxes, birth control methods, carbon monoxide pumps, and other emerging techniques to mitigate rodent populations.

Staffing Increases
: Increasing staffing dedi-

cated to rodent and vector control to bolster efforts in addressing rodent issues effectively.

Linking Pest Control Requirements to Permits
: Strengthening regulations by linking pest control requirements to more permits, ensuring adherence to rodent management protocols across various activities.

Improved Data Collection:
Enhancing data collection methods to monitor secondary poisonings, diseases, and other impacts associated with rodent infestations.

The City will provide a detailed presentation on the IPM plan at a Special Issues Committee: Rodent Control meeting on Monday, April 22 at 6 p.m.

Community members, stakeholders, and interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will be hosted

on Zoom, and participate in discussions surrounding rodent management strategies. Those unable to attend the meeting will also be able to view the full plan online starting on April 22.

Attendees can register to join the meeting here: bit.ly/rodentcontrolmeeting



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JOIN THE MYSTIC RIVER OUTFALL AND SEWER SEPARATION COMMUNITY MEETING ON APRIL 24



Virtual Meeting to Offer Project Overview and Collect Neighborhood Feedback

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, and City staff invite you to join a virtual com-

munity meeting to learn about flood relief and water quality improvement efforts planned for Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the surrounding neighborhood.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, April 24, at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Visit the project website at somervillema.gov/mysticoutfall to learn more and attend the meeting. For those unable to attend, a recording of the presentation will be available on the project website, as well as on City YouTube and the City's

GovTV channels.

At this meeting, City staff will introduce the project and share initial conceptual designs. Following the presentation, residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and provide feedback.

The City of Somerville is making substantial systemwide investments to modernize its sewer and stormwater infrastructure. As part of this effort, the City will be rehabilitating the existing utilities in Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the

neighborhood west of Foss Park. To support stormwater management in this area and beyond, the City is also installing new drainage infrastructure and constructing a new stormwater outfall pipe that will discharge to the Mystic River. This project will reduce flood risk in the surrounding area and help maintain the water quality of local rivers.

In addition to the underground utility improvements, this project will also include street safety improvements and green infrastructure (drainage features designed to mimic natural pro-

cesses such as irrigated planting areas, bioretention basins with select soils and plants that catch and filter stormwater, new trees, etc.) throughout the neighborhood.

This project is one of a series of actions the City is undertaking to reduce water pollution, address flooding, and modernize Somerville's infrastructure. Preliminary designs are expected to be complete by Fall 2024. Final design is anticipated to be complete during 2025. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change. Construction will follow.

OFFICIAL STATE JAZZ SONG (H 3105)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a measure

that would make the song "Massachusetts" the state's official jazz song.

Sponsor Rep. Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill

Roll Call to comment on his bill and its passage.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING WILLIAM "LEE" COADY

COADY, William "Lee" – Of Somerville April 12, 2024. Complete notice to follow



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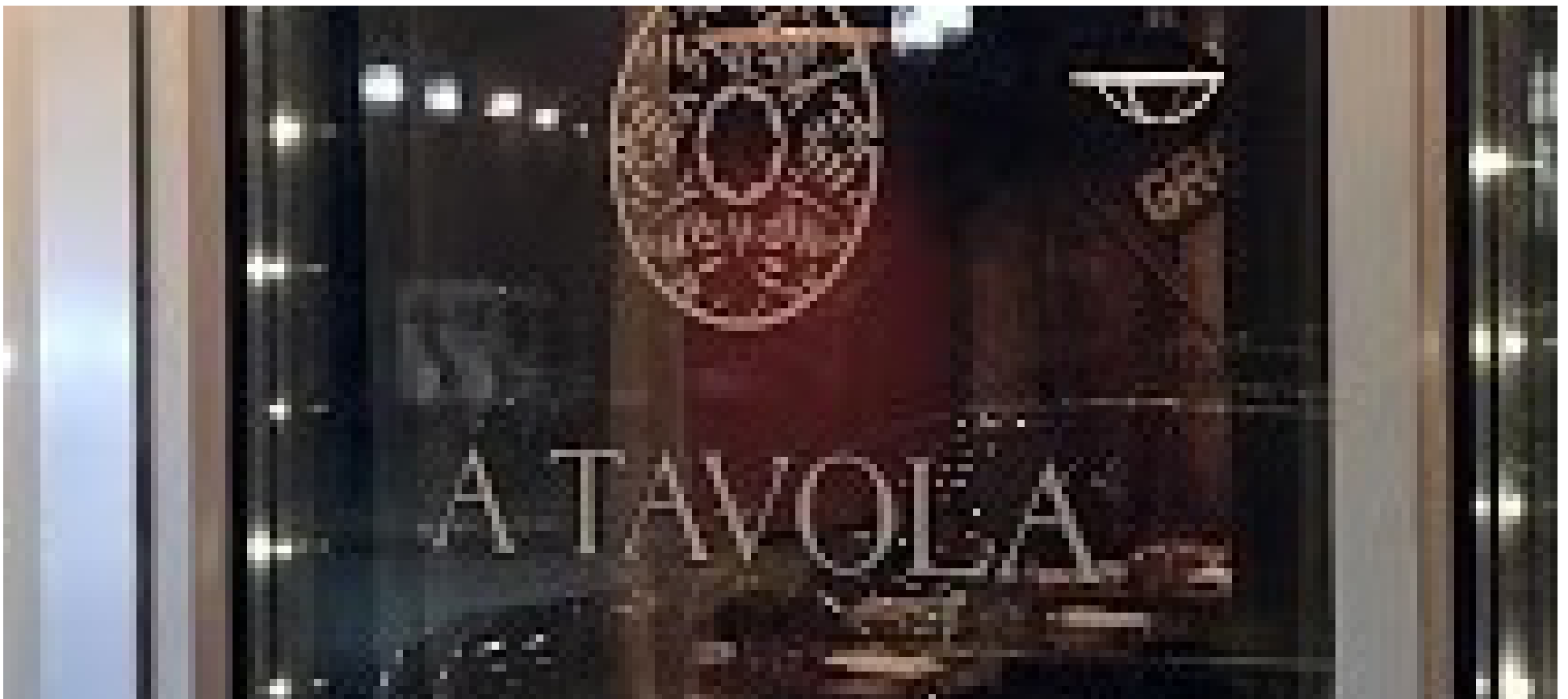
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